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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION OF WYOMING
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS SECTION

VOL. 21 NO. 3 APRIL 1984

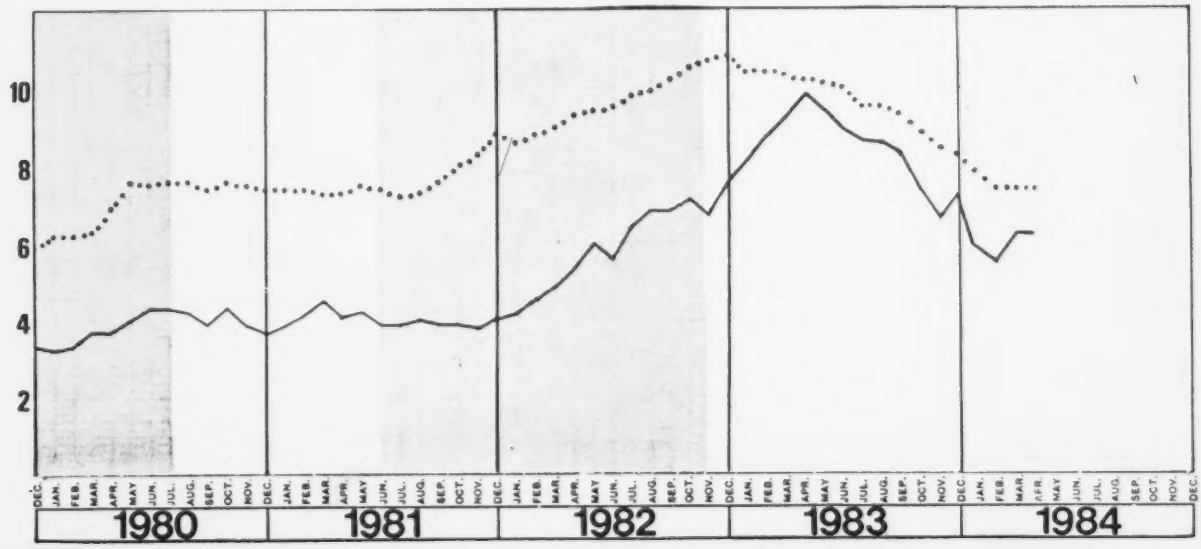
NATIONAL SCENE

In April, U.S. unemployment registered a seasonally adjusted rate of 7.8 percent for the third consecutive month. This compares to the 10.2 percent recorded in April of 1983 and amounts to 2.5 million less people out of work than during the same month in 1983. The nation's employed labor force was up 4.8 million over-the-year, which was an increase of 4.8 percent and compares to the total civilian labor force gain of two percent. The May unemployment rate was at 7.5 percent, reflecting a continuing decline in the unemployment level.

WHAT ABOUT PRICES?

Page 6 of this edition of Trends lists the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers from 1967 through April 1984. Note how the annual average figures correspond to the nation's inflation/recession periods. The double digit inflation of 1979 through 1981 was experienced during a rapid economic

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S.
(Seasonally Adjusted)
1980-1984



Shaded Areas represent U.S. Recession periods determined by National Bureau of Economic Research

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment Security

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expansion period. Conversely, the recessionary period is evident when looking at the reduced annual average increase figures for 1982 and 1983. The much talked about recovery is evidenced by the rise in the annual inflation rate (from 3.2 percent in 1983 to about 4.5 percent in the first four months of 1984). As of April this year, a market basket of goods that cost $100.00 in 1967 now costs $308.80.

STATE RATE DROPS AGAIN

Wyoming's total unadjusted unemployment rate for April dropped to 6.5 percent from the 6.7 percent recorded in March. There was a drop of nearly 10,000 persons unemployed in the state between April 1983 and April 1984. Back in April 1983 the comparable rate of 10.3 percent was the highest recorded in the state since 1963.

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted rate of 6.1 percent in April remained unchanged from March, and was down from the 9.8 percent recorded in April of 1983. In March, the most recent data available for all states, Wyoming ranked 35th in unemployment with a rate of 6.7 percent. Connecticut had the lowest rate of 4.7 percent, while West Virginia had the highest rate at 16 percent.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

March unemployment rates show that half of Wyoming's bordering states had lower unemployment and half had higher. Montana, Idaho, and Utah had the higher rates of 9.7, 8.1, and 7.5 percent respectively. Nebraska, Colorado, and South Dakota had lower rates of 5.1, 5.2, and 5.2 percent respectively.

LABOR FORCE FIGURES UP

The total labor force consists of all those employed plus those who meet the definition of being unemployed (those actively seeking work). April's figure of 258,184 is the most ever recorded for the month of April. If this trend continues through the summer, Wyoming's employers may have the largest pool of labor to select from ever in the state's history.

Also of interest is the fact that the preliminary April employment figure of 241,495 is the highest ever recorded in that month. In that light it is particularly interesting to note that by industry, construction is the only sector that has had a significant increase over-the-year in employment. The five cent a gallon tax on gasoline has created much work for road and highway improvements and construction. When traveling Wyoming's highways this summer one should be aware of the extensive work being done by road construction crews.

WYOMING'S 1983 FOURTH QUARTER WAGE DATA

Recently compiled employer contributions data for the fourth quarter 1983 show a decrease of five percent in total payrolls between the fourth quarters of 1982 and 1983. However, the statewide average weekly wage for fourth quarter 1983 of $347 was only a two percent decrease from the 1982 fourth quarter figure of $354.

In the Fourth Quarter 1983 the annual rate of inflation according to the consumer price index was 3.3 percent. Bearing in mind that the average Wyoming wage earner saw a two percent drop in wages, it could then be argued that in terms of buying power he lost five percent over-the-year. This is a substantial departure from the

trend set in 1979, 1980, and 1981 when wages increased 12.2, 12.6, and 10.3 percent annually.

COUNTY TRENDS

The chart on page 5 and Table 2 show recent labor force developments in the counties as well as for the entire state. Note that despite the fact that 13 of the 23 counties actually had increases in the numbers of unemployed from March to April, the statewide total unemployed showed a decrease of nearly 500 in that period.

Three counties had significantly higher unemployed rates than the rest. Lincoln, Fremont, and Carbon counties had rates of 11.9, 10.0, and 9.9 percent respectively. At the other end of the scale were Goshen, Niobrara, and Hot Springs counties with unemployment rates of 3.0, 3.1, and 4.2 percent.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967=100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
April 1984	308.8	302.3	333.2	246.4	199.2	309.6	375.7
Annual % Change	4.5	3.6	4.0	5.1	1.9	5.9	6.3

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
April 1984	304.1	302.3	322.7	245.7	198.2	311.9	373.9
Annual % Change	3.1	3.5	0.7	5.0	1.7	6.3	6.5

IN OUR FUTURE LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The Research and Analysis Section is involved in several diverse statistical programs. Most of these programs are used as sources for the information published in the Labor Force Trends. A better understanding of these programs should help Trends users avoid confusion especially when terms or figures appear to be contradictory. For that reason we are scheduling brief descriptions of the following programs at those specified times.

May: LAUS; Local Area Unemployment Statistics
June: CES; Current Employment Statistics
July: ES-202; Covered Employment and Wage Data
August: OES; Occupational Employment Statistics
September: Explanation of Seasonal Adjustments

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

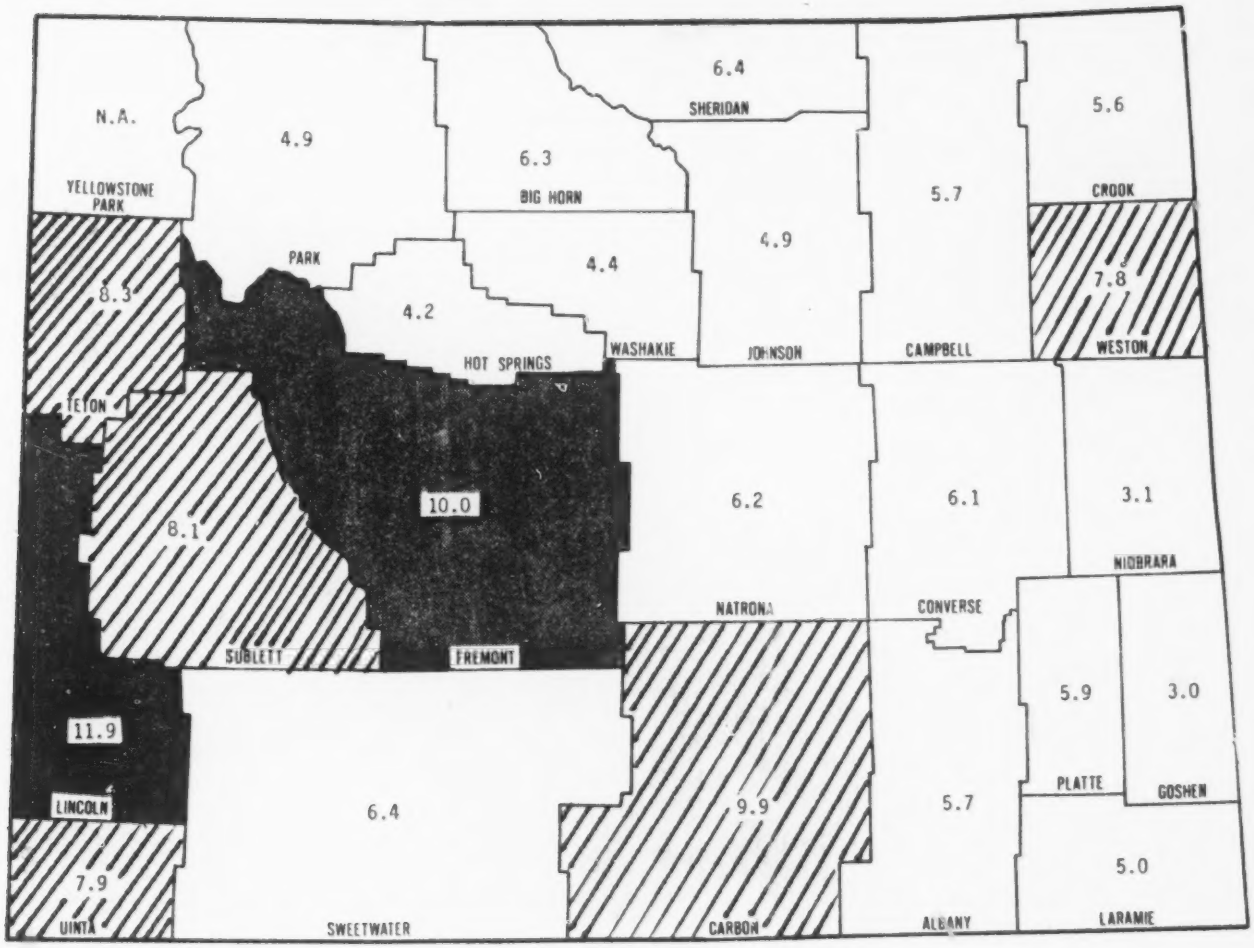
If you have any questions about any of our reports or wish to order a copy of them, please give us a call or drop us a line.

Phone: 307-235-3643
Address: Wyoming Employment Security Commission
Research and Analysis Section
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, Wyoming 82602

Here's a list of our most recent publications:

- Wyoming Occupational Outlook with projections to 1992.
- Recent Trends in Wyoming's Unemployment.
- Report of Applicants and Job Openings, 4th Quarter, 1983 and First Quarter 1984.
- Wyoming Affirmative Action Data Package for 1984.
- Wyoming Covered Employment and Wage Data by Industry & County, 4th Quarter 1983.
- Wyoming Occupational Employment Statistics; Selected Balance of Nonmanufacturing.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, BY COUNTY
APRIL 1984



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES:

United States.... 7.6
Wyoming..... 6.5

Below U.S. Rate
Above U.S. Rate, Below 10.0 Percent
10.0 Percent or Higher

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U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ALL URBAN
ALL ITEMS 1967=100

* Percentage increase from the previous year by month

** Percentage change from month to month

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN. AVG.	ANN. AVG. INCREASE (PERCENT)
1967	98.6	98.7	98.9	99.1	99.4	99.7	100.2	100.5	100.7	101.0	101.3	101.6	100.0	2.9
1968	102.0	102.3	102.8	103.1	103.4	104.0	104.5	104.8	105.1	105.7	106.1	106.4	104.2	4.2
1969	106.7	107.1	108.0	108.7	109.0	109.7	110.2	110.7	111.2	111.6	112.2	112.9	109.8	5.4
1970	113.3	113.9	114.5	115.2	115.7	116.3	116.7	116.9	117.5	118.1	118.5	119.1	116.3	5.9
1971	119.2	119.4	119.8	120.2	120.8	121.5	121.8	122.1	122.2	122.4	122.6	123.1	121.3	4.3
1972	123.2	123.8	124.0	124.3	124.7	125.0	125.5	125.7	126.2	126.6	126.9	127.3	125.3	3.3
1973	127.7	128.6	129.8	130.7	131.5	132.4	132.7	135.1	135.5	136.6	137.6	138.5	133.1	6.2
1974	139.7	141.5	143.1	143.9	145.5	146.9	148.0	149.9	151.7	153.0	154.3	155.4	147.7	11.0
1975	156.1	157.2	157.8	158.6	159.3	160.6	162.3	162.8	163.6	164.6	165.6	166.3	161.2	9.1
1976	166.7	167.1	167.5	168.2	169.2	170.1	171.1	171.9	172.6	173.3	173.8	174.3	170.5	5.8
1977	175.3	177.1	178.2	179.6	180.6	181.8	182.6	183.3	184.0	184.5	185.4	186.1	181.5	6.5
1978	187.2	188.4	189.8	191.5	193.3	195.3	196.7	197.8	199.3	200.9	202.0	202.9	195.4	7.7
1979	204.7	207.1	209.1	211.5	214.1	216.6	218.9	221.1	223.4	225.4	227.5	229.9	217.4	11.3
1980	233.2	236.4	239.8	242.5	244.9	247.6	247.8	249.4	251.7	253.9	256.2	258.4	246.8	13.5
1981	260.5	263.2	265.1	266.8	269.0	271.3	274.4	276.5	279.3	279.9	280.7	281.5	272.4	10.4
1982	282.5	283.4	283.1	284.3	287.1	290.6	292.2	292.8	293.3	294.1	293.6	292.4	289.1	6.1
1983	293.1	293.2	293.4	295.5	297.1	298.1	299.3	300.3	301.8	302.6	303.1	303.5	298.4	3.2
1984	305.2	306.6	307.3	308.8										
*	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.5										
**	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.5										

Table 1 ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	APR 1984 1/	MAR 1984 1/	APR 1983 2/	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	258,184	257,049	257,918	0.4	0.1
Unemployment	16,689	17,180	26,554	- 2.9	- 37.2
Employed Labor Force	241,495	239,869	231,364	0.7	4.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) 3/	175,700	176,950	181,183	- 0.7	- 3.0
b. Agriculture 3/	12,446	10,286	12,675	21.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adjd.*	6.5% 6.1%*	6.7% 6.1%*	10.3% 9.8%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjd.*	7.6% 7.8%*	8.1% 7.8%*	10.0%10.2%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) 4/	3.1%	3.6%*	6.3%*	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 557.70	$ 558.01	$ 494.31	- 0.1	12.8
Average Weekly Hours	42.9	43.8	38.8	- 2.1	10.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.00	$ 12.74	$ 12.74	2.0	2.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Office	26,881	38,011	61,104	- 29.3	- 56.0
a. Initial	2,908	3,301	4,171	- 11.9	- 30.3
Weeks Compensated	23,196	33,465	68,465	- 30.7	- 66.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$2,902,666	$4,227,633	$10,420,759	- 31.3	- 72.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 125.14	$ 126.33	$ 152.21	- 0.9	- 17.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,108	3,726	3,132	- 16.6	- 0.8
Non-Ag. Openings Received	1,914	1,899	1,678	0.8	14.1
Non-Ag. Placements	2,230	2,248	1,583	- 0.8	40.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 497.76	$ 497.76	$ 469.25	0.0	6.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.8	41.6	0.0	2.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.63	$ 11.63	$ 11.28	0.0	3.1
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967=100	308.8	307.3	295.5	0.5	4.5
Producer Prices, All Commodities	311.4	311.1	300.6	1.0	3.6
Retail Prices of Food 1967=100	302.3	302.2	291.9	0.0	3.6

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Final. 3/ Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. 4/ Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provision.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Table 2 & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE APR 1984	LABOR FORCE MAR 1984	LABOR FORCE APR 1983	% CHANGE MAR-APR	% CHANGE APR-APR	UNEMPLOYMENT APR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT MAR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT APR 1983	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE APR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE APR 1983
Statewide	258,184	257,049	257,918	0.4	0.1	16,689	17,180	26,554	6.5	6.7	10.3
Albany	15,845	15,481	14,627	2.4	8.3	905	782	962	5.7	5.1	6.6
Big Horn	5,250	5,085	5,653	3.2	- 7.1	331	385	656	6.3	7.6	11.6
Campbell	18,012	17,932	19,697	0.4	- 8.6	1,035	1,140	1,832	5.7	6.4	9.3
Carbon	9,636	9,402	10,436	2.5	- 7.7	953	888	1,602	9.9	9.4	15.4
Converse	7,221	6,987	7,387	3.3	- 2.2	438	452	839	6.1	6.5	11.4
Crook	2,831	2,791	2,767	1.4	2.3	158	142	255	5.6	5.1	9.2
Fremont	19,515	19,859	19,045	- 1.7	2.5	1,949	2,534	2,261	10.0	12.8	11.9
Goshen	7,263	7,009	6,902	3.6	5.2	215	291	399	3.0	4.2	5.8
Hot Springs	3,034	3,065	2,873	- 1.0	5.6	126	160	198	4.2	5.2	6.9
Johnson	4,183	4,142	4,069	1.0	2.8	204	279	380	4.9	6.7	9.3
Laramie	35,024	35,356	34,128	- 0.9	2.6	1,739	1,700	2,467	5.0	4.8	7.2
Lincoln	6,412	6,293	6,090	1.9	5.3	764	701	1,072	11.9	11.1	17.6
Natrona	39,885	40,267	40,940	- 0.9	- 2.6	2,481	2,413	4,959	6.2	6.0	12.1
Niobrara	1,635	1,542	1,574	6.0	3.9	50	59	142	3.1	3.8	9.0
Park	14,087	13,531	12,628	4.1	11.6	695	688	931	4.9	5.1	7.4
Platte	3,975	3,897	4,177	2.0	- 4.8	236	218	385	5.9	5.6	9.2
Sheridan	14,379	14,163	13,306	1.5	8.1	927	1,103	1,084	6.4	7.8	8.1
Sublette	2,469	2,398	2,592	3.0	- 4.7	199	178	297	8.1	7.4	11.5
Sweetwater	20,943	21,057	22,813	- 0.5	- 8.2	1,350	1,259	2,611	6.4	6.0	11.4
Teton	7,038	7,392	6,560	- 4.8	7.3	584	534	871	8.3	7.2	13.3
Uinta	10,286	10,381	10,583	- 0.9	- 2.8	810	720	1,474	7.9	6.9	13.9
Washakie	5,425	5,321	5,236	2.0	3.6	241	291	476	4.4	5.5	9.1
Weston	3,837	3,699	3,836	3.7	0.0	299	263	404	7.8	7.1	10.5

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands) APR 1984 2/ Total	MAR 1984 3/ Total	APR 1983 Total	% Change on Total Emp. MAR 1984 to APR 1984	% Change on Total Emp. APR 1983 to APR 1984
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	199.6	198.5	199.8	0.6	- 0.1
Manufacturing	7.8	7.7	7.7	1.3	1.3
Durable Goods	3.5	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.9
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.0	- 14.3
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	191.8	190.8	192.1	0.5	- 0.2
Mining	26.2	26.6	27.5	- 1.5	- 4.7
Contract Construction	17.6	16.0	15.3	10.0	15.0
Transportation & Public Util. es	16.1	16.4	16.4	- 1.8	- 1.8
Railroad Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	- 2.9
Transportation except Railroads	6.2	6.2	5.7	0.0	8.8
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.6	6.9	7.3	- 4.3	- 9.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.5	43.6	43.3	- 0.2	0.5
Wholesale Trade	8.8	8.8	9.3	0.0	- 5.4
Retail Trade	34.7	34.8	34.0	- 0.3	2.1
Food Stores	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.6	5.7	5.5	- 1.8	1.8
Eating & Drinking Places	12.4	12.5	12.3	- 0.8	0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.5	7.5	7.7	0.0	- 2.6
Services	30.6	30.1	32.1	1.7	- 4.7
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Medical & Other Health Services	6.3	6.3	6.2	0.0	1.6
Government	50.3	50.6	49.8	- 0.6	1.0
Federal Government	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	43.6	43.9	43.2	- 0.7	0.9
State Government	12.8	12.9	12.8	- 0.8	0.0
Local Government	30.8	31.0	30.4	- 0.6	1.3

(See Footnotes End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	APR 1984 2/	MAR 1984 3/	APR 1983	MAR 1984	APR 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to APR 1984	to APR 1984
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	34.1	34.3	34.1	- 0.6	0.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.8	33.0	32.9	- 0.6	- 0.3
Mining	5.1	5.2	5.4	- 1.9	- 5.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.5	4.6	4.8	- 2.2	- 6.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	2.1	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.1	2.2	2.4	- 4.5	- 12.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.5	9.4	9.4	1.1	1.1
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 2.8	- 2.8
Retail Trade	6.0	5.8	5.8	3.4	3.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.8	5.8	- 1.7	- 1.7
Government	6.6	6.7	6.2	- 1.5	6.5
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	6.0	6.1	5.6	- 1.6	7.1

(See Footnotes End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands) APR 1984 2/ Total	MAR 1984 3/ Total	APR 1983 Total	% Change on Total Emp. MAR 1984 to APR 1984	APR 1983 to APR 1984
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.1	30.0	28.8	0.3	4.5
Manufacturing	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.0	- 16.7
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.1	29.0	27.6	0.3	5.4
Contract Construction	2.0	1.9	1.3	5.3	53.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.5	3.8	- 2.9	- 10.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.9	6.9	6.6	0.0	4.5
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.7	0.8	14.3	0.0
Retail Trade	6.1	6.2	5.8	- 1.6	5.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.4	5.4	4.9	0.0	10.2
Government	9.7	9.6	9.3	1.0	4.3
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.2	0.0	9.1
State and Local Government	7.3	7.2	7.1	1.4	2.8

1/ Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2/ Subject to revision. 3/ Revised figures.